

# The history of the rose dates to 3000 B.C.

Rose gardens are a favourite of gardeners in many countries around the globe. The World Federation of Rose Societies meets regularly every three years.

At the last conference, in Sydney, Australia, in 1988, according to the Canadian Garden Council some 15 Canadians attended, including Ethyl Freeman of Toronto, who is a vice president. If you are interested in roses, this would be a delightful way to meet up with fellow rosarians from all around the world in a happy

## NRS affiliates with Royal Trust

Vancouver-based National Real Estate Service (NRS) has announced that it has entered into an agreement with Royal Trust of Toronto to provide "The NRS Residential Mortgage."

Under the terms of the agreement, Royal Trust, Canada's largest Trust company, will act as the exclusive supplier of the NRS Branded Mortgage which will be marketed by NRS representatives across Canada.

"Our finest and foremost priority is to provide our clients with the best possible products and services available," said NRS President Oswald Jurock. "By aligning NRS with a corporation with the capabilities of Royal Trust both our agents and clients stand to benefit."

The NRS Branded Mortgage features both competitive rates and a comprehensive package of flexible early repayment options unmatched by other financial institutions. This includes the option of prepaying any amount up to and including double the regular mortgage payment each and every month with no fee or penalty. Homeowners who take advantage of this option can also miss a payment at any time during the mortgage term without paying penalty. The NRS mortgage also allows homeowners to pay off up to 10% of the mortgage principal once a year. In addition, there's an early renewal option and the mortgage is both portable and assumable.

The agreement with Royal Trust also enables NRS agents to approve mortgage applications by computer. Using a software program called PC Lender, developed by Royal Trust, NRS agents can instantly approve mortgage applications on the spot and transmit them to Royal Trust for verification and processing. This new system eliminates the need to apply for the mortgage at a financial institution and greatly reduces the turn-around time of having the applications processed.

"Royal Trust is committed to improving the convenience for clients to obtain home mortgage financing," said William Harker, Chief Operating Officer, Canadian Operations for Royal Trust in Toronto. "We recognize NRS as an aggressive, entrepreneurial organization that will help Royal Trust meet this goal."

"Both National Real Estate Service and Royal Trust are in the forefront of computer technology in their respective fields, which makes this partnership a natural fit," added Jurock. "Together we can offer home buyers a superior mortgage product, faster and more conveniently than any other company in Canada."

"National Real Estate Service's move into the mortgage market is just one step in our long-term strategy to become the number one real estate firm in the country," said Jurock.

atmosphere.

Roses are known in history as far back as the year 3000 B.C. when the Egyptians planted them in gardens around their palaces. The Greeks too adored the rose and called it "king of flowers". It is they who tell the story about Eros, God of Love, who, once while admiring the fragrance of a rose, was stung by a bee which he did not know was at

work at the interior of the flower! Apparently Eros became so angry that he punished the rose bush by shooting a number of arrows from his bow, through its stems, and these arrows forever became the rose bush's thorns!

The rose is connected with many of the famous. For example, it is said that Cleopatra used rose petals as a carpet for the floors of her

palace. And, Confucius is supposed to have had at least 600 books on the culture of rose bushes!

There is still another story about rose petals that is hard to believe, but persists nevertheless. It is about the emperor Nero, and since there are many questions about him in other regards, perhaps this story is plausible. It is said that Nero spent the current equivalent of over \$500,000 on roses for one banquet. It was apparently his desire to have rose petals fall from the ceiling like rain. It was later reported that a few of the guests were unlucky - they were smothered as a result of the weight of the falling petals!

A modern-day almost-fatal event is said to have been prophesied by Nostradamus. In the 16th century he wrote, "When the rose blooms in France, there will be blood in the Vatican."

Just three days before Pope John Paul was shot, France elected a new president, Francois Mitterand, whose Socialist party symbol is a red rose.

It is believed that the world's oldest living rose is 1,000 years old, and grows on the wall of the cathedral in Hildesheim (just south of Hanover) Germany. According to reports received by the Canadian

Garden Council, it still blooms every year.

The Americans lay claim to the largest rose bush in the world; but it's not in Texas! It was brought to the U. S. from Scotland as a young plant in 1885. It still grows in Mrs. Burlin Devore's garden located in Tombstone, Arizona. The diameter of its stem now exceeds 15 cm (6"). Its branching head covers an area large enough to shelter some 150 people from a sudden rain shower. Now that's a big rose bush by anyone's standards!

The Canadian Garden Council says that the reason roses smell so nice, at least some of them do, is that flowers have to rely on aroma and colour to attract insects and bees for pollination.

One of the items which rose hybridizers are working hard at introducing in their new cultivars being introduced is a stronger perfume. A new classification of roses now becoming popular in England is the English garden rose - all of which have large flowers produced throughout the season, and with an excellent fragrance. Two examples for which you may wish to look out are 'St. Cecilia' a delightful light pink, and 'Graham Stuart Thomas' a bright yellow.

## The time is now to plant perennials

By CATHY BARTOLIC  
Dominion Seed House

Summer is upon us and, for most gardeners, this is the time to enjoy the fruits of our labour. Besides keeping the weeds down and the bugs off favourite plants, we don't really think about sowing seeds or transplanting seedlings any more.

The next month or so, however, is an ideal time to start a lot of perennials from seed. Perennials are plants that reappear year after year in our garden without having to be reseeded or replanted. By starting them from seed, everyone can enjoy the pleasure and satisfaction of permanent perennial plantings at a very modest cost.

In the last few years, perennials have become increasingly more popular. There are several reasons for this trend. Perennials provide a sense of permanence and stability. Most of the plants we would have found in our grandmother's garden would have been perennials. The stately delphiniums, the familiar daylilies and the colourful lupines are all from that era. Perennials provide a sense of wonderment. Nothing is as fascinating as watching the rebirth of growth each spring from last year's garden treasures. Perennials provide diversity. There are perennials for shade, sun, wet and dry locations. They have a wide range of colour, size, height, form and flowering season. Perennials also provide an economic advantage. The flower clumps enlarge each season for an ever-increasing colour display. These clumps may also be used for division and transplanting to new beds.

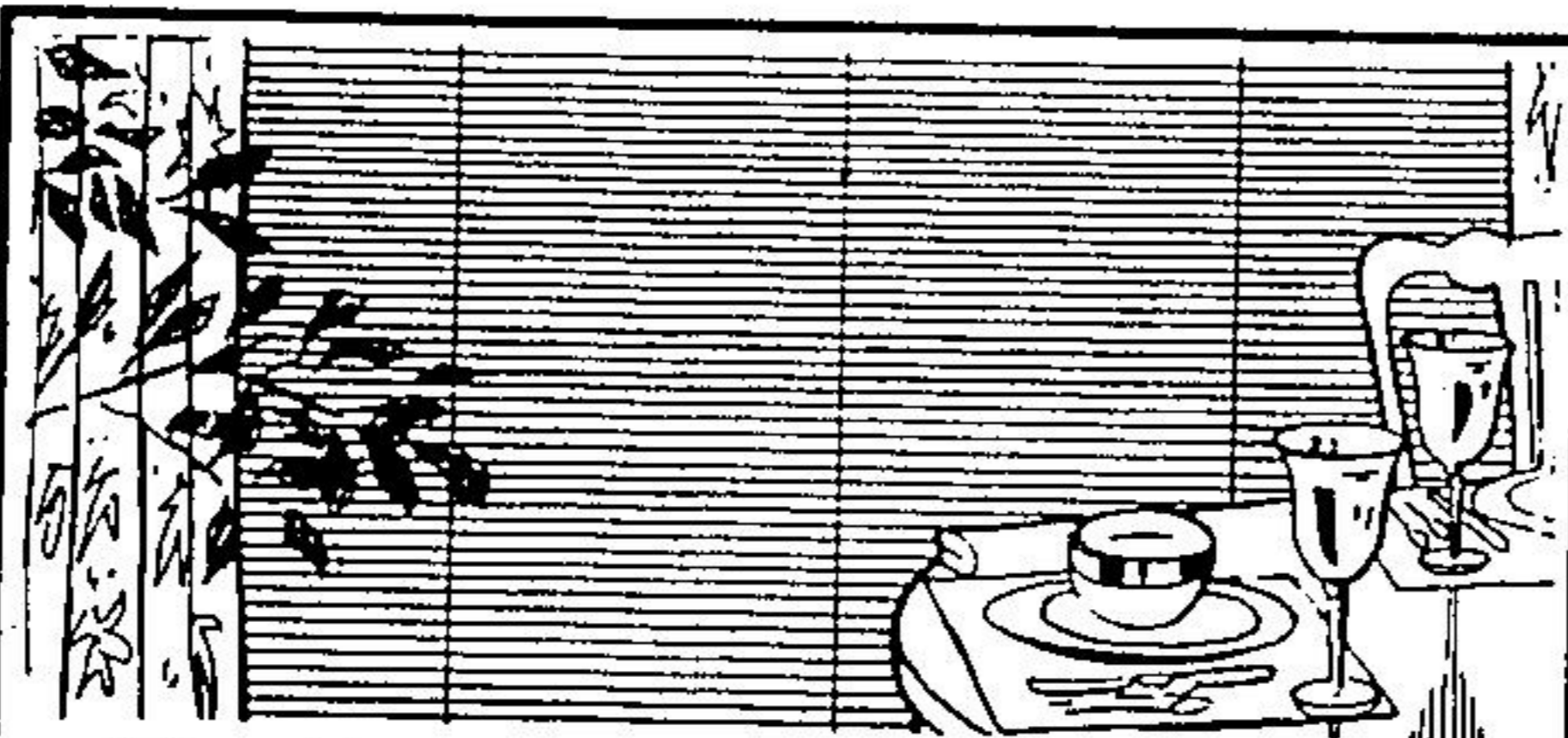
Seeds can be started indoors or outdoors. Conditions can be more easily controlled indoors and therefore might be the more favourable option. Check seed packets - some perennials, such as Bleeding Hearts, require a cold treatment before they are ready to germinate. This can be easily achieved by placing the seeds in a moistened, sterile medium and putting them in a refrigerator for a few weeks. Generally, the temperature in the medium should be maintained at 21°C 70°F. Some seeds, such as Coral Bells and Archillea, require light for germination. Therefore, they should not be covered with soil. Others do not, so once again check seed packets for specific directions.

When seedlings are large enough to handle, transplant to a permanent location, or a temporary bed for growing until fall or next spring. Watering is critical at this stage. High temperatures and the underdeveloped root system make the seedling dependent on water to ensure its chances of establishment. Make certain to check the moisture level of the soil at least once a day. If possible, transplant in the evening. In hot weather protect the seedlings from direct sun for a few days with a piece of cardboard or shingle. To help minimize transplanting shock, apply a transplanting fertilizer immediately after relocation and for several successive waterings. This helps the roots adjust and thrive in their new home.

With a little bit of planning and organization now, you can look forward to an incredible colour display next year.

Welcome to the world of perennials!

Further information on perennials can be obtained by contacting Cathy Bartolic, Assistant Garden Centre Manager, Dominion Seed House, 877-2801.



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